commitment to the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Sri Lanka, Government of India has emphasized to the Government of Sri Lanka the need to make all possible efforts to strengthen the ceasefire and to revive the political dialogue in order to move the peace process forward. Government of India has also conveyed that any escalation of violence will not only undermine the ceasefire but also result in civilian casualities. The Government of Sri Lanka has conveyed that war is not an option and that it remained committed to a political solution to the ethnic issue. Government of India will continue to press for a politically negotiated settlement of the ethnic issue which is acceptable to all sections of Sri Lankan society.

Basic amenities at Metro Rail stations

*165. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite huge earnings by Delhi Metro Rail Corporation in Delhi, no basic amenities like drinking water and toilet facilities, etc. have been provided for passengers at the Metro Rail Stations;

(b) if so, the reasons for no providing such facilities for passengers at the Metro Rail stations; and

(c) whether Government intend to provide such facilities and if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (c) Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) Ltd. has reported that out of 54 Metro Stations in operation, toilet facilities are available at 40 Metro Stations. Toilet facilities are not being provided at underground stations and some of the elevated stations (on Line-1) due to space constraint or where there is no demand due to less traffic. However, for all future extensions, provisions are being made to provide toilets at all stations.

For drinking water, public taps have not been provided, as these are likely to be misused and the area may get soiled. Arrangements have, therefore, been made to provide drinking water through vending machines installed in 43 out of the 54 Metro Stations. DMRC is making efforts to provide drinking water vending machines at remaining stations also within next 4-6 months time.